GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3712
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Use of Smart Cards in PDS
Mishra Shri Anoop

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use Smart Card Technology in the PDS and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has consulted the States in this regard;
(c) if so, the response of the States thereto; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation and bringing transparency in the PDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a): No Sir.
(b) & (c): The question does not arise
(d): For effective implementation and bringing transparency in Public Distribution System (PDS), Government has initiated implementation of a Plan scheme on "End-to-end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations" during 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). The component-I of the scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, online allocation, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms. Besides, Central Govt. has also asked States/UTs to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer − Cash transfer of food subsidy into the bank account of beneficiaries or fair price shop (FPS) automation, which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) device at FPS, for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions. The cash transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in 3 UTs on pilot basis namely Chandigarh, Puducherry w.e.f. 1-9-2015 and partially in Dadra & Nagar Haveli w.e.f. 1-3-2016. For remaining areas, States/UTs have been asked to expedite the pace of Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation. Govt. aims to provide automation facilities in 3 lakh Fair Price Shops by March, 2017 out of total 5.28 lakh FPSs across the country.
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